

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 IO-10

RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 FRB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3945

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT EMIN EIND EINV BEXP MO

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN INVESTMENT IN MOROCCO

REF: A. RABAT A-123

B. RABAT A-141

C. RABAT 5418

1. DURING EXTENDED CONVERSATION ON MOROCCAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, CZECH AMBASSADOR INFORMED ECOUN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS NEGOTIATING FOR JOINT VENTURE COPPER MINE WITH BUREAU DES RECHERCHES ET DE PARTICIPATIONS MINIERES (BRPM) ALONG LINES WORKED OUT BY ROMANIA. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO OUL MES AREA WHERE HE HAD SEEN DEPOSITS SO RICH THAT OXIDES COULD BE SCRAPED UP WITH FINGERNAILS. ASSERTED THAT IN MANY PLACES ORE WAS SIX OR SEVEN PERCENT COPPER--COMPARED WITH WORKING MINES IN MANY COUNTRIES OF 0.5 PERCENT (HALF OF ONE PERCENT). ADDED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA ALSO INTERESTED IN TUNGSTEN DEPOSITS IN MOROCCO.

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2. COMMENT: A. AS REPORTED RABAT A-141, NUMBERS OF EAST EUROPEAN TECHNICIANS BEGINNING TO SHOW UP AS ADVISORS IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY THE BUREAU DE RECHERCHES ET DE PARTICIPATIONS MINIERES (BRPM), OFFICE DU DEVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL (ODI), AND OFFICE DE COMMERCIALISATION ET D'EXPORTATION (OCE). THIS APPARENTLY RESULT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROTOCOL OF EARLY 1974 AND RELATED AGREEMENTS DIRECTED AT RESEARCH ON THE EXTRACTION AND PROCESSING OF PHOSPHATES AND OTHER MINERALS. SOVIETS APPEAR PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PHOSPHATE PRODUCTION (SEE RABAT 5418).

B. WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT-VENTURING ARE OPENING UP IN MOROCCAN MINING. BECAUSE MINING OPERATIONS ARE HIGH PROFILE AND MANY MOROCCANS, AS RESULT OF ARAB OIL ACTIVITIES, ARE SENSITIVE TO CHARGES CONCERNING EXPORT OF "EXHAUSTIBLE NATIONAL PATRIMONY", MAY BE ADVANTAGES IN DIRECTING ATTENTION OF POTENTIAL U.S. INVESTORS TO PROCESSING, REFINING AND RELATED CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES. THIS IS AREA WHERE U.S. CAN OFFER KINDS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MOROCCO NEEDS MOST.

C. ALSO RECOMMEND, AS SUGGESTED IN RABAT A-123, THAT EMPHASIS BE GIVEN IN 1976 MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION TO MINING INDUSTRY NEEDS WHERE POTENTIAL FOR LARGE-SCALE SALES OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT SHOULD IN FUTURE BE SUBSTANTIAL. END COMMENT.
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